

# Glossary

### A

**Abiotic:** non-living component of the environment.

**Adaptations:** The ability of a living organism to survive in a given surrounding (environment).

**Aerosol spray:** These are gases that are kept in containers under high pressure and are released by spraying.

**Afterbirth:** This is the placenta and foetal membrane discharged from the uterus after the birth of the baby.

**AIDS:** Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. State at which the body cannot withstand or defend itself against any opportunistic diseases.

**Amniotic fluid:** A fluid (watery matter) that surrounds the foetus within the amnion in the womb.

### B

**Biodegradable:** A substance that can be broken down so as to rot.

**Biotic:** The living component of the environment.

**Boiler scale:** A grey coat (fur) that develops in hot water pipes making them narrow caused by hard water.

**Breathing roots:** Special roots developed by plants that grow in marshy areas for absorbing oxygen from the atmosphere.

### C

**Campaign:** Creating public awareness of an issue.

**Carnassial teeth:** The last upper premolar and first lower molar teeth of carnivorous animals used for tearing flesh.

**Carnivores:** These are animals that feed on other animals (flesh).

**Chancroid:** A sexually transmitted disease that causes wounds in the lymph nodes in the groin region.

**Chewing cud:** The process of returning food into the mouth for further

chewing when at rest by some herbivorous animals.

**Conservation:** The act of preserving, protecting, or restoring the natural environment.

**Contours:** These are imaginary lines that join places with similar heights.

## D

**Deciduous:** Plants that shed their leaves during dry seasons.

**Dermis:** The inner layer of the skin that contains blood capillaries, sweat glands and other structures.

**Diastema:** A gap between the teeth of some herbivores that allows the tongue to grasp, mix and roll food.

**Drugs:** Substances that affect the working of the body when taken.

## E

**Electromagnet:** A magnet formed by allowing some electric current to pass through a magnetic material.

**Embryo:** The stage of an unborn baby after conception and implantation but before all the organs are developed; usually the first eight weeks.

**Energy:** The ability to do work.

**Energy transformation:** The process by which energy changes from one form to another.

**Environment:** All the living organism and whatever surrounds us.

**Epidermis:** The outer layer of the skin that prevents dirt and germs from entering out bodies.

**Excretion:** The process of removing waste products from the body.

**Expiration:** To breathe out.

## F

**Fertilisation:** The fusion of nuclei of male and female sex cells to form a zygote.

**Foetus:** An unborn human baby more than eight weeks after conception, where it has developed a face, arms and legs.



**Fossil fuel:** A natural fuel, formed from dead organic matter buried long time ago.

**Fusion:** Joining together to become one.

**Fur:** A coating caused by hard water on the inside surface of a pipe or kettle when used for heating.

## G

**Germs:** Very tiny organisms which cause disease in animals.

**Geothermal:** Energy derived from the earth below.

**Gestation period:** The period between fertilisation (conception) and birth.

**Gradient:** The steepness of a slope.

## H

**Habitat:** The natural living place for an organism.

**Halophytes:** Plants that grow in salty waters.

**Herbivores:** A group of animals which feed entirely on plants only.

**HIV:** Human Immunodeficiency Virus. It causes AIDS.

**Hydrophytes:** Plants that survive in water or very moist soils.

**Hygiene:** Conditions or practices that maintain health and prevent diseases.

## I

**Implantation:** The process by which the zygote attaches itself to the lining of the uterus.

**Inclined plane:** A slope which can be used to make work easier.

## K

**Kinetic energy:** Form of energy possessed by a moving body.

## L

**Labour pains:** The pains an expectant mother experiences during child birth.

**Lactating mother:** A woman who is nursing a baby or infant.

**Lather:** White mass of bubbles produced by soap when mixed with water.

## M

**Machine:** An apparatus used to help perform a certain function.

**Magnet:** A metal which has the ability to attract others.

**Magnetic field:** A region of force around a magnet.

**Mesophytes:** Plants that grow in places with enough water.

**Micro-organism:** Small organisms that cause diseases.

**Mulching:** The covering of the base of a plant or farm with dry plant remains to conserve water in soil and reduce evaporation.

## N

**Nagana:** A disease of cattle caused by trypanosome parasite and transmitted by tsetse fly.

**Non-renewable energy:** Source of energy that can be depleted by use, for example, petrol.

**Nutrition:** Obtaining foods necessary for health and growth.

## O

**Omnivores:** A group of animals that feed on both flesh and vegetation.

**Ovulation:** The release of ova from the ovary once every month.

**Ozone layer:** A layer that protects the earth from the harmful radiation from the sun.

## P

**Parturition:** The action of giving birth to young ones (childbirth).

**Pollution:** The introduction of harmful substances into the environment.

**Pulley:** A wheel with a grooved rim around which a cord passes, used to raise heavy weights.

## R

**Renewable energy:** Source of energy which can be replaced once they are used up or depleted.

**Reproduction:** The process of producing an offspring.

## S

**Semen:** A male reproductive fluid containing sperms.

**Scum:** A layer of dirt or froth on the surface of a liquid.

**Sign:** An indication of a disease seen by doctors.

**Streamlined body:** The body of an organism that is designed to ease and speed movement.

**Succulent:** Having thick fleshy leaves or stem.

**Symptom:** An indication of a disease felt by the patient.

## T

**Transpiration:** To give off water vapour through the stomata in plants.

## U

**Umbilical cord:** The channel through which a developing embryo in the womb gets nutrients from the mother.

## V

**Venereal disease:** A disease acquired through sexual intercourse. Also called and STD or STI.

## W

**Weaning:** To accustom an infant to food other than the mother's milk.

## X

**Xerophytes:** Plants that are well adapted to grow in dry areas.

## Z

**Zygote:** The cell that is formed by the fusion of the male and female gametes.